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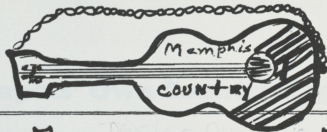
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Memphis Country

A Monthly Publication Helping To Promote All Phases Of The Music Industry 55¢

Volume 1

September, 1974

Number 1



Dear Readers,

Welcome to Memphis Country! We sincerely hope you enjoy our first issue and will continue to do so on future issues.

This one may be a little rough, as it is the first one, but, we will strive to make it better as we go along.

If you have any comments, suggestions or questions, either about our paper or music in general, please feel free to let us know. We want our readers to be pleased.

In our October issue, which will be out on the 25th of October, we will have three new features. We'll have a question and answer column, Letters to the Editor, and our very own, Gabby Gertie will be telling off on everybody she knows.

So, send in your letters and your questions and answers. Shhh - Gabby Gertie may be listening.

Yours in Country Music
Deda Davis Bonuro

Front Cover:
Beautiful lake at, "Eddie Bond's Radio Ranch."

Our thanks to —

Mrs. Janet Wood (Blossom) for the pictures of the People's Day and to
Bettye Berger for the picture and report on Ivory Joe Hunter.

Editor and Publisher — Deda Davis Bonuro
Sales Manager — John M. Bonuro, Jr.
Art and Layout Consultants — Mary Folsom, Betty Jean Roberts

Memphis' Own Country Legend

There are times when you can not only mix business with pleasure, but, you can turn business into pleasure. One of the times is when you visit with Eddie Bond.

It was a bleak and rainy night, but, as I turned off onto the familiar, graveled drive, my thoughts were not of bad weather, but rather of a certain singer, who has for many years, worked diligently for Memphis and it's Country Music.

The sign read, "WELCOME TO EDDIE BOND'S RADIO RANCH". Up the winding driveway, under the lighted arch, the grounds stretched out all around me. Beautiful land that made me feel like I was back in the country again. The driveway went over the hill and ended at a huge parking lot filled with cars.

As I walked thru the doors, the atmosphere was warm and friendly; the decor very definitely Country.

I sat down and ordered a Coke while I waited. As I heard the familiar voice behind me, I turned and there with a hearty handshake, a warm smile, and a twinkle in his dreamy, brown eyes, was MR. MEMPHIS COUNTRY, EDDIE BOND.



One of the huge, twin dance floors, surrounded by tables galore. All the better to eat your big, juicy steak, cooked right in the kitchen at the Ranch. Delicious.

As I chatted with Eddie, I realized this article might be the most difficult I had written. This man's ideas and hopes for the future of Memphis and Country Music are very involved.

Everyone in the Mid-South area is familiar with the name Eddie Bond and what he has done for the good of Country Music in Memphis.



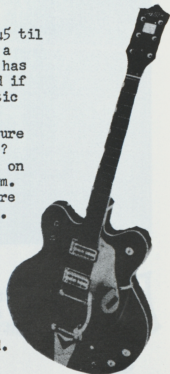
Cousin Bo-Jack on the bandstand with the STOMPERS.

Eddie's television program every morning, 6:45 til 7:00, Monday thru Friday, on Ch. 13, has seen many a guest singer step up to the microphone. Eddie Bond has given them a chance. It's the same at his club and if you can do anything at all with a song, his fantastic band will help you carry it off like a real pro.

I asked Eddie what he had planned for the future to provide us with more of his unique entertainment? He said, "Well, I'm having a Buford Pusser Special on Saturday, Sept. 28, on Ch. 13, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. I've also taped several Gene Williams' Shows. They're going to be shown on Ch. 13, from 4:00 til 4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

On his recording plans, Eddie said, "I've just recently recorded an album called THE 12th OF AUGUST, which is also the soundtrack for a new movie by the same name."

This is also about Buford Pusser. It was on Aug. 12, 1967, that Buford Pusser was ambushed and seriously injured and his wife, Pauline, was killed.



Eddie's personal manager, Jim Whitby, stands in front of the Ranch.

"My album called THE LEGEND OF BUFORD PUSSER was my last recording for Stax Records," said Eddie.

Eddie has been singing in the Memphis area for about 17 years and has owned several Country & Western night clubs in Memphis. He is very proud, as we all are for him, that he has been a guest on THE GRAND OLD OP'RY in Nashville.

His long list of hits include, ROCKING DADDY, SECOND CHANCE, IS MY RING ON YOUR FINGER, SHORT HONEY MOON, and CAUTION; LOVE MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH.

He has even run for Sheriff of Shelby County. Tho he did not win the election, those of us who know and love him, just simply say, he came in second.

The handsome star is married and has three children, two girls and one boy.

If you're going out for a night of fun, drop by EDDIE BOND'S RADIO RANCH at 87 W. Mitchell Rd. It won't take but a few minutes to discover why they call him, MR. MEMPHIS COUNTRY.

Combined Efforts Produce Results

Country Memphis Style, Inc. is an organization of over fifty people combining efforts to promote Country Music in Memphis. Headed by Jim Queen, chairman; Lewis Willis, vice-chairman; Renee Brooks, secretary; and Phil Munsey, Treas., there are singers, musicians, songwriters, promotion men, heads of recording studios, and people who just love Country Music, working together with ideas, both old and new, to provide the established artist and the newcomer on the scene with the finest opportunities possible, and to bring to the public a sound they will truly enjoy.

In achieving their goal of promoting country music in Memphis, cities all over the world are becoming more aware of our city, our accomplishments and the fact that we need take a back seat to no one.

There is no Jealousy, no Competition. Just interested and dedicated people working together for the good of Country Music in Memphis.

If you are in the music business or if you would sincerely like to promote country music in Memphis, you may contact the membership chairman, Mrs. Gwen McEwen, at 323-3239 or get in touch with Memphis Country at 398-4697 and we will have someone contact you.

We went to see Gwen McEwen and Terri Stratton at the Whirlaway Club, out on Lamar, last Saturday night.

Terri is a great little country and western singer. She's pretty, too. Ah, to have looks and talent at the same time.

Gwen McEwen, of course, is the funniest chick in town. Her wit and talent, along with her unique way of drawing her audience into act is truly delightful.

The Whirlaway's variety of performers makes a night of absolute enjoyment.

Who's the Lady that Knows Her Music?

Mrs. Estelle Axton, dynamic and personable lady who heads up Fretone Records.

I met with Mrs. Axton to get a run-down on the action going on at Fretone and around town. I ended up chatting with her for almost three hours, because, with what this lady knows about Music and how she feels about Memphis, the conversation was just too good to leave.

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon, when most people would be anywhere in the world, except in an office. Not Mrs. Axton. She was still at work when I got there, and was more than willing to give me all the time and information I needed.

Mrs. Axton said, "I'm proud of Memphis and I believe in Memphis people, and once they're aware of the talent we have right here in Memphis and just how hard we're working to promote our entertainers; not just in Memphis, but in other cities as well, I have no doubt at all that the people will go all out to help us put Memphis right up at the top of the Music Industry."

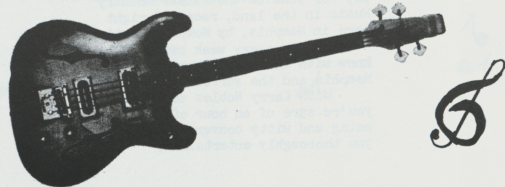
I asked Mrs. Axton what was being done to make people more aware of what was going on and what else could be done? Said Mrs. Axton, "We must have publicity, for one thing. How can we expect people to support us, if they don't even know who we are or what we're doing? We're very grateful to the radio stations that play our music and for the publicity and support they have given us."

"We also need to have organization. Everyone has to work together for the good of Memphis and the entire Music Industry. This is why we formed MEMPHIS MUSIC, and why COUNTRY MEMPHIS STYLE, INC. was started," she said. "We are all working together to provide entertainment that the people will enjoy and to keep our entertainers happy, singing and working in the city they love. It's one thing for an entertainer to go out of town, either on tour or for a show, but, we don't want them to leave Memphis to become famous. We want it to happen here."

Mrs. Axton went on to say, "If one record company can't do anything with a particular song or act that a person might bring us, we'll send them to someone else here who can help them."

Now that's not only what we call organization, but, genuine love for a city, it's people, and it's Music.

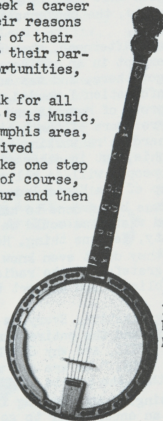
Mrs. Axton is the President of MEMPHIS MUSIC, and a very active member of COUNTRY MEMPHIS STYLE, INC., besides owner of Fretone Records.



Don't Search the World Over for What You Can Find at Home

Dating as far back as one can remember, people have left their hometown to seek a career in another city. Their reasons are varied; the size of their hometown, demand for their particular skills, opportunities, and so forth.

We cannot speak for all careers, but if your's is Music, and you're in the Memphis area, Friend, you have arrived. This is it. Don't take one step out of town, unless of course, you're going on a tour and then coming back.



Memphis has some of the finest talent in the nation. Our recording studios have the best equipment money can buy, and can compare with any studio any place.

We are all working to promote Country Music in Memphis. We need the co-operation and support of everyone. Buy records recorded in Memphis by Memphis artists. Request them on your local radio stations. Attend their performances, visit their clubs.

Memphis is a great city and we have the people ready and willing to help you embark on a career in Country Music, or any other type of Music if Country is not what you're looking for, and we're right here at home***** in MEMPHIS COUNTRY.

Spotlight on Memphis Tune In and Turn On

Tune in to KWAM- 101 FM every Wednesday evening from 7 til 8 p.m. and turn on to Spotlight on Memphis, for some of the finest Country Music in the land, recorded right here in Memphis, by Memphis' artists.

Guests every week keep you in the know with the latest happenings in Memphis and the surrounding areas.

With Larry Nobles as your host, you're sure of an hour of easy listening and witty conversation to keep you thoroughly entertained.

People's Day Packs Park Pavilion

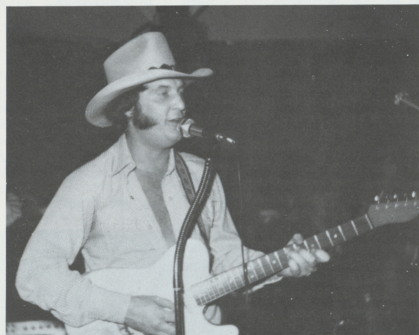
On Sunday, Sept. 15, WMQM held it's Annual People's Day and People and more people followed their LEADER, WAYNE EDWARDS into the Overton Park Pavilion with sheer adoration. Wayne led his subjects with the same expertise of the famed Pied Piper.

The crowd feasted on hot dogs, potato chips, and R C's, while laughing, dancing and clapping hands to entertainment provided by Memphis singers and musicians.



The LEADER joins the crowd and listens intently to the sounds of Memphis singers.

The people just seemed to keep coming. If someone left, (tho not many did) someone else came in and it was quite evident everyone was having a good time.



Larry Dale McKimney had the crowd's attention on him as he gave out with "The Auctioneer". Larry sings at the "Travelin' Fox on Lamar every night.



Six year old Kurt Meer of 4083 Stillwood, is a little camera shy, but he's not at all shy about following his LEADER. Mrs. Ruth Edgar does the same. It must be the thing to do. Kurt is the son of Kurt Meer, who is the general manager of WMQM.

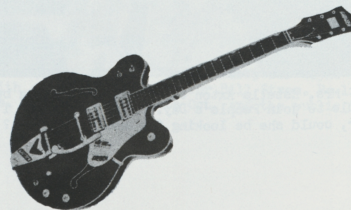


We were thoroughly entertained. Some of the other stars who joined in and added to our day were; T. O. Barnhart, J. Allen Gann, Bettye Berger, Denise Moore, Gwen McEwen, Billy Adams, Tommy Ruble, and Milton Higgs. For any names I have left out, I am deeply sorry. Sometimes I found myself just listening when I should have been writing. I'll get it right next time, folks.



Everyone knows who this dashing duo is. Bill Strom and Dee Presley, of course.

Bill has a new record out on the Fretone Label. The beautiful and talented Dee Presley is the writer of "Passionate State Of Mind", which is one side of Bill's record. The flip side is, "The Blind Leading The Blind".





Wayne Jackson, handsome and beaming, after giving us a couple of songs on his trumpet. We agree, Wayne, you were just great. Wayne is part owner of Memphis Horns, Inc., along with Andrew Love.



Mrs. Estelle Axton takes time out from a busy schedule to join People's Day. So serious, too. I wonder, could she be looking for some new talent? Hmm?



If this had been a beauty contest, we could have all gone home, because these two would have won, hands down. The lovely lady on the left is the LEADER'S wife, Ann. That charmer on the right is Dee Presley.

We all helped serve hot dogs, etc., so if you didn't go, you really missed it, because we had so much fun, we couldn't even call ourselves working. That's what you call fun.

Robin Scott, Charlie Van Dyke, Tom Gurley, Kurt Meer, Tee Ashburn, and the entire WMQM gang were just great, and we are proud to have been a part of the festivities.

And Wayne Edwards. Well, what can one say, except; HE IS YOUR LEADER !! (mine, too.)

FLASH

FLASH

FLASH

FLASH

Dee Presley is giving a Victory Party for Wayne Edwards, combined with a Promotional Party for Bill Strom. Be listening for details. The party is in late Oct. and the public is invited.

Massive Tribute Planned for Ivory Joe

NASHVILLE: A special evening of entertainment involving the total entertainment spectrum will occur October 1 at the new Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville in honor of one of America's truly legendary personalities, Ivory Joe Hunter. As a composer-singer-pianist, Hunter's contributions have included millions of record sales and songs that are woven permanently into the fabric of world art. Such titles as "Since I Met You Baby," "Empty Arms," and "I Almost Lost My Mind" have been instrumental in bridging the gaps between many of the areas of musical expression; as a human being, he has touched countless individuals in a manner experienced as one of life's rare opportunities.

Entertainers Isaac Hayes, George Jones, Tammy Wynette, Sonny James, Melba Montgomery, Jeff Robinson, and William Bell are contributing their participation in the event as a special tribute to Hunter's role in the entertainment industry and are joined in that tribute by a large number of music business people serving in multitudinous ways necessary for such a production.

Produced by Bayron Binkley, the show will feature an orchestra conducted by Bill Walker; Jim Malloy will be the sound director. Many Nashville firms and individuals are participating in supporting preparations.

Despite having been hospitalized for the past ten months for the treatment of cancer, Hunter is planning to attend the show; air ambulance arrangements have been made to transport him here from Methodist Hospital in Memphis, where he is currently a patient in Room 950 East. As an insight into the power of love, doctors report a definite physical improvement in his condition over the past several weeks of preliminary planning for the show. Proceeds will go to helping defray the astronomical medical expenses that have been incurred, but the opportunity for the entertainment industry and the total community to express its gratitude to Ivory Joe is a primary motivational force behind the entire project.

Born in Kirbyville, Texas, Ivory Joe (real name) Hunter sang in church as a child; as a young man he played piano with white bands in clubs and honkytonks featuring country music, but professional development found him generally categorized as a blues singer, mostly because of being black (although his proficiency in that idiom has never been questioned). Elvis Presley, Sonny James, the Wilburn Brothers, Pat Boone, and Charlie Rich are but few of the people who have successfully recorded his songs, an indication of his communicative contact with all of Mankind. The diversity of the October 1 tribute-benefit show fittingly symbolizes that contact.

Typical of Hunter's attitude toward his music and the people for whom it was intended is a comment he made recently to manager Bettye Berger while en route from one hospital to another one, paralyzed and heavily-sedated for pain: "I'm a lucky man; so many people love me. You know, there's more love in this world than dirt."



EDDIE BOND

MEMPHIS COUNTRY, INC.
Post Office Box 16424
Memphis, Tennessee 38116



EDDIE BOARD